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CLINICAL LECTURE ON HOMŒOPATHY.—By DR. CURIE.

GENTLEMEN,—We are now about to examine a new medical science, which leads us to the completion of the old, but which still requires the aid of the latter to be in itself complete.

If we throw a glance over the past, we shall find that by means of studies made upon the bodies of the dead (*anatomy*), we are led by induction to recognise (*diagnosis*), and to class a large portion of the diseases which affect humanity. But we have hitherto required a law, for the application of the medicaments to cure them, and also a perfect knowledge of these medicaments. Hahnemann has appeared, and revealed to us, both the law of application and the science of medicaments.

It is my intention to make known to you these two branches of this new science.

Like many others, Gentlemen, I have seen a multitude of systems pass before me: I have deeply studied them all, both in theory and application, and the result of this study has been the conviction, that medical science has been actually converted by them into a tower of Babel, and that the *truth* must be sought for independent of any system. For this reason, I have thanked God and Hahnemann, that the homœopathic law (*or art of curing*) has been revealed to humanity; and have proudly accepted the task of propagating and teaching it to the world.

I purpose, in these Lectures, to conduct you to theory by practice; I shall, therefore, succinctly explain all that may be necessary to the full understanding of my first lessons. For theoretical details, I refer you to the works of Hahnemann.

There is in man an ever-active power, which unceasingly strives to expel from his organic structure whatever might tend to its premature disorganization; a power, of which, till the present time, no just idea has been formed, because all labors and all observations have been hitherto directed to his already disorganized (*dead*) body; but this power is most evident in that man who, although diseased, is still in his active (*living*) state. We call it vital power, or principle.

Medicine acts in co operation with the vital power. External symptoms being the result of the struggle which the vital principle makes against the disorganizing malady, a remedy must be administered, which, in its effects, shall offer the greatest similitude with the symptoms. (*Similia similibus curantur.*)

You see, Gentlemen, the importance which medicinal substances here assume. Much has already been done, but there still remains much to do. In order to acquire the science of medicaments, it has been necessary not only to try them on the living, but on man in

the healthiest possible condition, that that which is only the symptom of a disease may not be confounded with the effect of the medicament. It has been necessary, also, to analyse the individuality of the remedy, in order to ascertain what preparation, and in what proportion it will be most efficacious.

These recent labors have shown, that a medicament, whether animal, vegetable, or mineral, is composed of two principles, the one material, and the other essential, which may be divided and subdivided to infinity by trituration; a proceeding which, by separating the material particles, develops the essential properties, and carries the power of action beyond human calculation. And if we recollect, that a medicament is further strengthened by the vital principle, an equally beneficial power, with the action of which it combines, we shall no longer be astonished at the mode of preparing and administering it in infinitely small doses, and at its successful opposition to those diseases which present the most serious symptoms.

As to the three virus', Syphilitic, Syphilitic, and Psoric, the recognized principles of every chronic malady, it is by the side of the patient that we shall verify and study them in their whole, and in their details. But before then, I request you, Gentlemen, to read with attention the works of Hahnemann, entitled '*On Chronic Diseases*;' *Organon, or the art of Curing*; and especially, the *Materia Medica*, which cannot enter too deeply into your thoughts and the direction of your studies.

(To be Continued.)

POTENCIES.

By W. E. PAYNE, M. D.

This subject seems to produce, if not excitement, much talk among homopaths; and the expression of some opinions, on this subject, are quite as obscure as any which we attribute to our allopathic brethren in relation to Homœopathy. It seems that the attitude which some homœopaths assume in relation to the subject of attenuations, is quite contrary the spirit of philosophical investigation, and certainly what we ought not to expect from a class of men who yield full credence to a law which was developed, and is now being confirmed by *experience* alone. To us homopaths, who are verging upon an entirely new *plane* of medical philosophy,—who are engaged in applying, to the best in-

terests of man, a series of truths before wholly unknown, and consequently untried,—to us who view *causes* in a sphere *above* the *plane* of effects, and see only effects where the pathologist is looking for causes,—to us who see the moving spring of all visible changes in the immaterial, vital principle, without the agency of which not a finger could we move,—not a thought could we think,—in fact whose business it is to assist this vital principle to maintain its legitimate relation with the human organism,—to us who are ascending the mountain to behold the dawn of the morning of a new day in science and philosophy, while the inhabitants of the valleys are more heavily oppressed with the sleep which precedes the first faint-blush of the morning light,—to us any new *phases* which may present itself in the up-springing light should not surprise us as long as it does not conflict with the general law which impresses itself with so much force on the mind of every homopath.

A homopath is not to suppose, because he is possessed of a great truth which enables him to move in a sphere entirely above his allopathic brethren in the matter of results, that he has the *whole* truth,—that there is nothing more to learn. He should not urge mere pre-conceived opinions against the avowed successful experiences of others who are entitled to, at least, as much credence as himself on the scores of veracity and well balanced mental developments. If the philosophical mind of Newton, after grasping the great law of gravitation, could so greatly err in Theory, what can be expected of us *pigmies*, who "*strut our hour upon the stage*," and pass off to be remembered no more? Though Newton saw, and demonstrated the universal law of gravitation which governs the movements of all things, from the least particle of inanimate matter, to worlds and systems of worlds, and, we might add, the very development and consociation of mental individualities, yet he clung to the philosophical maxim of the day, that one body could not act upon another body without the intervention of another material substance. He says, in one of his letters to Dr. Bentley, "it is *inconceivable* that inanimate, brute matter should, without the mediation of something else which is not material, *operate on*, and *affect* other matter, without mutual contact. That gravity should be *innate, inherent*, and *essential* to matter, so that one body may act

on another body, at a distance, through a vacuum, without the mediation of any thing else, *is to me so great an absurdity*, that I believe no man in philosophical matters, who has a competent faculty of thinking, can ever fall into." And in accordance with this pre-conceived notion, he imagined a subtle ether to occupy the space between the earth and the sun, and by this material intervention the gravitative power was operative. But who does not now know that the progressive developments of science have shown, beyond a doubt, that one body does act upon another body without mutual contact, or the intervention of an atmosphere, or a more attenuated ethereal substance? and yet the very persons who receive this teaching of science are considered to "possess a competent faculty of thinking in philosophical matters."

What man of science has not seen the *needle in vacuo* start as if endowed with the keenest sensibilities, and the most perfect inherent locomotive powers, at the approach of a magnet, or any electrified body? And yet we do not wonder at this, for it is a fact familiar to us all; but it is as inexplicable as many other things which we reject *because* we are unable to see the *rationale* of their operations. The man of science and philosophy of the present day, who rests himself upon the perfection of a pre-constructed hypothesis to explain the various phenomena daily exhibited in each or either of these departments, may expect that after generations will view his opinions with as much surprise as that one opinion of Newton is now viewed. The movements of all things must be governed by the operation of a universal law which originates high above the mental altitude of finite man, and this universal law can be approached only by critically observing effects. If Newton had been in possession of all the facts which Science has since developed, he would not have rested in the erroneous conclusions into which the false dogmas of the day led him.

It is not a hard matter for a homœopath to believe that medicines act according to the law expressed by the comprehensive maxim, "*Similia similibus curantur*," for this is a fact of every day familiarity. But that medicines should act in, what he considers, so extremely attenuated forms, as they are said by some to act, is too absurd to be credited, for it is contrary to all his pre-conceived ideas of what constitutes power. But an opinion may be hazarded, without fear of negative proof,

that the exact philosophy of effects, following the homœopathic application of potentized drugs, must be looked for in a direction entirely different from that which makes the removal of disease the result of a development of a similar artificial disease; and from a more interior ground than that which refers the *efficient* cause of such phenomena to the merely subdivided or attenuated condition of matter. The subdivision of matter, or the process of trituration and succussion, by which the subdivision of matter is effected, may be considered powerful, and perhaps the only means, by which the potentialities of drugs are so far brought within our control as to render them subservient to the uses which they are designed to perform. But the merely attenuated condition of matter, which renders the atoms, from their diminutive dimensions, more susceptible of imbibition, and consequently more effective from *this*, and their multiplicity, has no foundation in fact.

Matter, *in itself*, is dead. It has no power to effect, except by the principle of life which imparts to it its cohesive qualities, and makes it a distinct organized body. This may be seen in the phenomena momentarily passing before our eyes, in the lowest particle of matter which exhibits a vivifying quality, up to the most wonderful organization that exists in the universe of nature—the human body. Death, which is manifested by a falling asunder of particles which before constituted, in one complex, an organized body after its kind, is a disunion of the life, and the mere material particles which formed the body; and the power to move—to effect, is gone; and these material particles immediately enter into a new organization; and it is only after becoming constituents of this new body, that an effective power is again exhibited. It is unnecessary to adduce examples of proof, as they are not only before the eyes of every one, but to which the various departments of science and natural philosophy abundantly testify. The juices are to vegetable organizations what the blood is to the animal body. In these fluid forms are first elaborated, from organizations lower in the scale of material creations, the materials which compose the animal or vegetable body, and in the blood and juices may be said to reside the life of the respective bodies. But these juices are not life, for with the death of the body, dies also the blood of animal, and juices of vegetable formations, and their che-

mical constituent properties enter into new organizations, but into those in which similar chemical properties reside;—for example, the material particles of the blood, after it dies to that peculiar form of life, may enter into every organization in the universe of matter, but its earthy matters must return to those formations in which similar earthy matters reside, and the animal matters to those in which reside similar animal matters. But at the precise point of transition from one form of existence to that of another there is nothing of effective life. Chemical analysis shows that the human organism is made up of the same series and degrees, from the lowest and most inert form of earthy matters, to the highest and most subtle ethereal elements, of which the outward world of nature is composed. There is an exact correspondence between the two. Indeed, man's physical body is composed of the same elements similarly compounded—no more—no less; and in a more interior, attenuated state, we find the whole of these elements deposited, from which the solids of the body are derived, viz., in the blood. This fact is, of itself, sufficient to deter every physician from a reckless abstraction of this precious fluid;—it is, indeed, arresting life at its fountain-head.

Thus far we have been speaking, mostly, of organizations in the world of nature; all of which, we may see, by a careful and unprejudiced investigation, are, *in and of themselves*, without life;—they have no power to effect any thing, disconnected from the animatory principle. Thus, the eye cannot see, the ear cannot hear, the hand cannot move, and the tongue cannot speak, when life has departed from the organism; and the same thing takes place with respect to all animal and vegetable bodies,—an inert, and disorganizing mass is the result. Life, then, is the only active and effective agent in all things,—a principle without ponderosity,—without dimensions. To view it in relation to weight and measure, is like viewing the thoughts and affections of the mind as subjects of these two great characteristics of matter; between which, no other relation can exist than that of *cause and effect*.

All things of mineral, vegetable, and animal creations are determined to use,—use is the end of all things. And that life may be active in any particular sphere, it must be

brought forth on to that plane of existence whereon the use is to be performed. Thus, in the *semen* lies the future being or animal, even to its organs and viscera; and in the seed of the vegetable formation lies, potentially, the future tree—its branches and leaves, even to its fruit and new seeds, by which its species are perpetuated to eternity. To bring forth into use, or, as we say, life, the *being*, *animal*, or *tree*, certain conditions are requisite. The *semen* must be deposited in the *matrix*, and immediately, through the mother, the potential life therein concealed aggregates to itself a body, or covering, from things of matter, which fits it for all the uses for which it was designed in the world of nature. Descending lower in the scale, we come to a life of a lower order, yet perfect in its sphere, and ever at work ministering to the great end of creation. Vegetable life stands between the mineral and animal worlds, preparing from one materials for the sustentation of the other. With their roots in the earth, and their branches and leaves in the air, vegetables are continually employed in imbibing *oxygen*, *hydrogen*, *nitrogen*, and *carbon* from the air, and the water in the air, and from the earth a requisite quantity of earthy matter, and out of these is compounded *fibrine*, *caseine*, *albumen*, *oil* or *fat*, *soda*, *lime*, &c.—precisely the same substances of which those bodies are composed, which derived their support from the vegetable world. This is one of the high uses of vegetable life. To bring forth into its own destined use, the potential life of the seed, the earth, the sun, the air, and the rain constitute the indispensable conditions. The earth is as a *matrix*, and when these natural agents are brought into a harmonious relation with this potential life, they forthwith contribute to the formation of a body, and progressively a tree comes forth, an exact type of the vivifying principle, subject to the various uses which it is capable of performing for the sustentation and comfort of man. If another use besides that developed by this perpetual law of nature, is designed, certain other conditions are necessary to the development of this inherent, vivifying and only active principle of matter. Trituration and succussion are the principal, and perhaps only, means of bringing forth into a free and active state this potential life; and through the medium of certain *menstrua*, in which it

does not naturally inhere, we acquire the ability to apply it to the uses of healing the sick. It is known that electricity, a property common to all bodies, and one which probably simulates more nearly the principle of universal life than any thing subject to the laws of matter, is developed, or rendered active by friction; and through this means we are enabled to transfer it from one body to another, and apply it to the various uses to which Science has shown it to be adapted.

The above are a few ideas thrown together for the consideration of those who may deem them worthy of candid thought. Many facts may be drawn from Science and Philosophy which coincide with the general principles above stated, requiring time, only, to arrange them, to make the illustrations more full and perfect, and the general principles more lucid; while on the other hand it is not known to the writer that any facts, confirmed by sufficient observation, disprove them.

To the above I shall append one case of the unquestionable effect of a drug in, what is called, a highly attenuated state; which, while it shows the superior power of a drug, *thus treated*, in some states of the organism, shows also the importance of not abandoning homœopathy as a principle, or limiting the extent of its power, because our limited comprehension often leaves us with the mortification of the nullity of our own *boasted abilities*, and the patient a disappointed, and, perhaps, disheartened endurer of his own misfortune.

In Sept. of 1846, several cases of *scabies* came into my hands for treatment; one of which proved far more obstinate than the others; and for about eight months my knowledge of homœopathy was entirely inadequate to effect its removal. Various remedies were used, selecting at first what appeared, to me, the true specific; and afterwards, as last resorts, those which appeared less so—deeming that an imperfect knowledge of the symptoms left the case still in a hopeful condition; and perhaps the subject of the curative power of some drug that might yet be employed. With this idea, after using *merc. sol.* 30.—16.—3.—and 1., and *sulphur* 30. and 3., I used successively, *caust.*, *tycop.*, *hep. carb. v.*, *sep.*, *vertr.*, *rhus.*, *calc.*, *lack.*, *psor.*, and perhaps some others, but all to no purpose. Not for one moment doubting the *insufficiency* of the homœopathic law, and feeling that her resources were sufficient to meet

the exigency of the case, I was enabled to retain the confidence of patient and friends (those who had a right to decide the matter), and determined, as a last effort, to try the effect of *full potencies*, or otherwise “light attenuations.” I accordingly supplied myself with a few remedies, ranging from 200 to 2000. In this case, *merc sol.* 1000 was employed—one globule of which was given, and the disease began, immediately, to disappear, and in a very few days the organism was apparently free, without a repetition of the drug; and since, there has been no return.

PERICARDITIS RHEUMATICA.

BY DR. JOSEPH LAURIE, OF LONDON.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—The following cases are not submitted to you from anything very remarkable in their features, but simply as illustrative of the power of Homœopathic remedies, in arresting a disorder which, in Allopathic practice, is considered to require what are denominated the most prompt and vigorous measures,—such as a free and bold use of the lancet, &c., &c.

CASE I.

A. M., thirteen years of age, of sanguine lymphatic temperament, was seized, on the 4th of March, 1845, with acute rheumatism, for which, according to *time-honoured rule*, an aperient was first given, and the pains sought to be relieved by means of fomentations and hartshorn embrocations. Delirium having supervened on the morning of the 8th, I was sent for in the evening, and found the patient lying on her back, in bed, complaining of severe darting, aching, rending pains in all the joints, but particularly those of the shoulder, elbows, and wrists,—the affected parts being at the same time much swollen, tense, shining, and very sensitive to the touch; countenance flushed, and wearing an expression of anxiety; tongue furred white, mouth parched, thirst considerable; skin hot and dry; pulse 130, full, and bounding, but regular; respiration hurried, but unattended with pain; no cough. On examining the region of the heart, the impulse was abnormally strong, the pulsations loud, accelerated, and occasionally reduplicated. About the middle of the sternum a gentle superficial rustling sound was distinctly audible, particularly while I kept the patient in the sitting posture; there was no

dulness on percussation, and total absence of pain in the region of the heart.

R Tinct. Aconiti, 3, gtt. iij.

Aque puræ, oz. iij.

Dosis.—Cochleare mediocre, tertia quaque hora.

March 9th.—Fever diminished; pulse 120, not so full; skin moist; mouth not so parched; thirst lessened; recumbency on the right side supportable, not so on the left; respiration laborious and quick; sound of superficial friction increased in extent and loudness, audible in all positions, and in the interval between as well as during the occurrence of the heart sounds; no perceptible dulness on percussation. The patient had passed a restless night, and was now and then delirious; joints still inflamed and painful.

R Tinct. Belladonnæ, 3, gtt. ij.

Aque puræ, oz. ij.

Dosis.—Cochleare mediocre, tertia quaque hora.

On repeating my visit in the evening, I found the rheumatic sufferings of the patient considerably alleviated, the redness of the joints no longer so intense, and the tumefaction much reduced; heart symptoms little changed, perhaps a slight diminution of the friction sound; skin inclined to be hot and dry; pulse the same as in the morning.

R Tinct. Aconiti, 3, gtt. ij.

Aque puræ, oz. ij.

Dosis.—Cochleare mediocre, sexta quaque hora.

March 10th.—Patient has passed a good night; perspired copiously soon after the first dose of the medicine; skin still moist; no thirst; yellowed, moist tongue; aversion to all food; pulse 100, somewhat hard; patient cannot yet lie on the left side, and on sitting up in bed she complained of a darting pain proceeding from the region of the heart to the left shoulder and scapula, with aggravation of the joints on movement; sound of friction same as on the previous evening; no perceptible dulness at or near the sternum, and no abnormal sound in any other part of the chest; respiration free, slightly hurried, but occasionally interrupted by the darting pain already noticed, on making a succession of deep inspirations.

R Tinct. Bryon, 3, gtt. iij.

Aque puræ, oz. iij.

Dosis.—Cochleare mediocre, quarta quaque hora.

March 11th.—Considerable improvement in every respect.

Prescription as before.

March 12th.—Further improvement; the patient can lie on both sides; tongue clean; appetite returning; pulse 84, feeble, but regular; action of the heart still rather powerful, particularly on the least movement; friction sound only audible after any slight exertion, such as turning in bed or sitting up; all redness and swelling of joints have disappeared, some stiffness and pain on movement alone remaining.

R Bryon., 7., Glob. XXIV. (Redig. in pulv.)
Pulv. Sacch. Lact. gr. iv.

Misce intime, et divide in partes equales iv. quarum capiat unam quotidie.

March 17th.—Convalescent. Twelve months afterwards I saw the patient, and discovered no trace of disease of the heart of any description.

CASE II.

R. H., twenty-one years old, of bilious temperament, was attacked with rheumatic fever about the middle of November, 1845, after having been exposed to a cold and damp atmosphere for several hours. During the three following days the sufferings were so severe that the patient was unable to remain at rest in any posture, (feeling, if any thing, rather easier whilst sitting up in bed, with his head between his hands, resting his elbows on his knees, and giving a rocking motion to the body;) towards evening, fits of coldness and shivering alternating with heat, accompanied the pains, and about midnight copious sweats supervened, which were followed by remission of pain and some sleep. Early in the morning, however, there was recurrence of suffering, with increased violence. On the evening of the fifth day of his illness, the patient was induced to drink some hot gin and water, in the double hope of arresting the chills, and allaying the pain. The day afterwards the rheumatic pains had nearly vanished, but were substituted by intense headach, nausea, giddiness, palpitation of the heart, and sharp pains in the left breast. These symptoms continued in an unmitigated form for five days, and on the day following, the tenth of the patient's illness, I was requested to visit him. I found him sitting on his bed, half dressed, having been unable to complete his toilet, in consequence of the distressing dysp-

noxa and palpitation which he experienced on making any slight exertion; his countenance wore an expression of intense anxiety, which, together with the history of the case, led me at once to infer, before resorting to auscultation, that some affection of the heart had arisen from rheumatic metastasis; no pain was complained of beyond an occasional twitch in the left side of the chest, during the performance of a somewhat full inspiration, or on turning the body towards the right side: a degree of stiffness in the back and limbs was the only inconvenience complained of in the parts which had been previously so severely affected with rheumatism. The pulse was feeble, irregular, occasionally intermittent, and rather frequent; the tongue furred white, covered with mucus, and increased in volume; appetite wanting; taste metallic; no thirst; bowels confined for four days.

On auscultation, the sounds of the heart were somewhat muffled at the cardiac region, but the impulse greater than natural, and there was distinct, though not loud, friction sound immediately to the left of the inferior third of the sternum, particularly when the patient inclined the trunk forward, or made any trivial effort, such as rising from his seat, or raising up the left arm quickly.

On percussion there was decided dulness confined to an area of three inches, at the lower end of the sternum. In the carotid and and subclavian arteries the normal heart sounds were audible in their natural strength. The case thus afforded unequivocal evidence of pericarditis from the metastasis of rheumatism, resulting in liquid effusion.

R *Laches.*, 6, gl. XII.

Aquæ puræ, oz. j.

Dosis.—Coch. medioc. ter die.

November 27th.—The patient intimated that he felt easier; had passed a better night than he had done since the day he was first seized with indisposition; the bowels had been freely moved early in the morning; pulse same as yesterday; dulness on percussion; sounds and impulse of the heart unchanged: expression of countenance still anxious.

Former prescription repeated.

On the 28th, and two succeeding days, the patient remained in much the same state; he imagined himself better, but his countenance bore the same anxious expression; and, if any thing, an increase of dyspnoea, with tendency to syncope on movement, seemed to

have taken; the pulse was rather more feeble and intermittent. *Arsenicum*, (6,) dose gl. 6, every four hours, was substituted for *Lachesis*, on the 1st of December, and continued until the morning of the 3rd, when the patient's state was as follows:—Dulness on percussion over a larger space, nevertheless the friction noise at the sternum was somewhat stronger than it had been the previous four days; the impulse was somewhat more powerful, but the natural heart sounds impaired and distant; great dyspnoea and faintness on the slightest movement; pulse still weak and quick, but not so intermittent; some appetite, but increased oppression on the introduction of the smallest morsel either of liquid or solid food into the stomach; no pain in the region of the heart; sleep restless; decubitus dorsal, with the head and shoulders raised.

R *Arsenic.*, 6, gtt. iij.

Aquæ puræ, oz. j.

Dosis.—Coch. med. quarta quaque hora.

December 4th.—Patient felt stronger, and had passed a tolerable night; no thirst; tongue foul; in all other respects the same as on the day previous.

R *Colch.*, 6, gtt. iij.

Aquæ puræ, oz. iij.

Dosis.—Cochleare amplum, tertia quaque hora.

Under the employment of this remedy, a striking improvement soon became manifest;—the patient began to breathe more freely, and to be enabled to move about without much inconvenience arising from palpitation, dyspnoea, or faintness: the dulness on percussion commenced gradually to give way, and the sounds of the heart resumed a normal intensity. *Colchicum* was continued for six days, latterly at longer intervals between the doses. On the 11th of December, *Nux vom.* and *Arsenicum* were prescribed in alternation, at intervals of twelve hours,—the former in consequence of the deranged state of the digestive organs, and some slight rheumatic pains, of a dragging, aching description, in the back, chest, and joints, accompanied by a feeling of torpor in the forearms; the latter from the circumstance that the patient complained of occasional attacks of dyspnoea and palpitation of the heart at night. A week afterwards, convalescence was not only firmly established, but the patient was moreover, restored to a much better state of health than he had enjoyed for a year or two past. No relapse has taken place, and recovery appears to be complete.

CASE III.

C. W., aged fifteen, of melancholic temperament, and of somewhat robust and muscular build for his years, but disposed to suffer from deranged digestion in consequence of frequently over indulging a naturally keen appetite, (to which an additional stimulus was usually given by the amount of severe exercise he was daily in the habit of taking,) had been confined to the house for a week, with a severe attack of acute rheumatism. March 3rd, 1846, the patient was seen by me for the first time, when I was instructed that, three days previously, he had been seized with an increase of fever, attended with palpitation of the heart, and some oppression at the chest. These symptoms had continued to gain ground, and formed the reason that induced the parents of the patient to send for me, (previous to which they had been allowing the disease to take its course,—the father having become a complete sceptic in medical science.)

I found that indications of inflammation of the pericardium, with some symptoms of complication with endocarditis, as was evinced by the existence of the following physical signs:—Loud friction sound not only about the middle of the sternum, but also pretty clearly beyond the proper cardiac region, in various directions, and greatly disguising the natural sounds of the heart; strong and very abrupt impulse, accelerated pulsations, and prolonged first sound. On listening at the top of the sternum, and also in the carotids, the normal heart sounds were heard with tolerable distinctness attended with a grating murmur, which although somewhat faint, was yet sufficiently well marked to denote endocarditic implication, with regurgitation through the semilunar valves of the aorta.

The expression of the countenance was painfully anxious, the restlessness great, the skin hot and dry, and the pulse full, strong, rapid, but irregular.

R Tinct. Aconiti, 3, gtt. iij.

Aquæ puræ, oz. iij.

Dosis—oz. ss. quarta quaque hora.

March 4th.—Patient somewhat easier; perspired freely after the second dose of Aconite; countenance not quite so anxious; physical signs as before; impulse of the heart perhaps rather less violent; pulse still full, but softer and rather slower; no pain in the region of

the heart when the patient lay perfectly quiet, but any sudden movement was immediately followed by excessively increased action of the heart, dread of suffocation, and a sensation of severe constriction as if the heart were violently squeezed or drawn together. Position in bed either dorsal, or on the right side, with the head raised—a sense of suffocation being experienced whenever the patient attempted to recline sinistrad.

R. Tinct. Spig., 6, gtt. iij.

Aquæ puræ oz. iij.

Dosis—Coch. amp. sexta quaque hora.

The general symptoms having much improved under the employment of the Spigelia, that remedy was continued until the 7th of March, on which day the symptoms encountered were as follow:—Respiration freer; anxiety of expression only perceptible after the performance of any slight exertion, which was still followed by violent palpitation; valvular murmur no longer audible; friction sound only perceptible when the heart is tumultuously agitated; pulse quick, somewhat irregular, and rather feeble, even when the action of the heart is powerful.

On percussion, a slight degree of dulness was discernible to the left of the sternum. The appetite which had returned immediately after the improvement effected by the Aconite, and could with difficulty be kept within the proper limits necessary in such a disease, was now supplanted by a strong aversion even to the smell of food of every description, and there was considerable thirst, which seemed to be materially caused by a sensation of intolerable dryness and burning heat in the throat, as the patient drank but little at a time, and seemed to experience temporary relief from sipping a little cold water every now and then; tongue rather dry, and furred; bowels had not been relieved for five days. No pain was complained of in the region of the heart, the feeling of severe constriction having readily yielded to Spigelia.

R Arsenic. alb., 6, gtt. iij.

Aquæ distil. oz. ij.

Dosis—oz. ss., quartis horis.

March 8th.—General symptoms considerably amended; physical signs the same. Medicine continued.

March 9th.—Appetite returning; dryness of the mouth and throat together with the thirst, removed; palpitation of the heart some-

what diminished; friction sound still perceptible on particular occasions, such as after a sudden movement of the body, or even of the arms, but only to a slight degree; dulness on percussion neither increased nor diminished since the 7th; bowels not yet relieved; spirits very depressed.

R Laches., 6, gtt. iij.

Aqua distil. oz. ij.

Dosis—Coch. mag., quarta quaque hora.

March 10th.—Rather less dulness on percussion; friction sound no longer audible; pulse more regular, but still weak and accelerated; impulse of the heart stronger, rather more abrupt, and the palpitation very distressing on movement, but particularly on turning in bed during the night; the patient can lie on either side, yet prefers lying on the right, or on the back. Spirits better, although sudden fits of indescribable anxiety still occur at intervals. Arsenicum and Lachesis were given in *alternation* every twelve hours during the six succeeding days: at their expiration the patient was convalescent. The bowels were copiously relieved on the 12th without the aid of an enema. For the space of a fortnight afterwards, there was some tendency to violent palpitation of the heart on going up stairs rather quickly; but this completely subsided ere long under the action of the remedies (such as *Sulphur*, *Bryonia*, *Nux v.*, *Natr-m.*, and *Acid-n.*) which were called for by the chronic derangement of the digestive functions.—*Br. Jr. Hom.*

N. YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

It was openly declared at the above allopathic association that its principal business should be, to adopt measures to arrest the progress of Homoeopathy. We have already made known to our readers the various measures which have been employed by that concern to accomplish this object. We shall continue to keep them advised of its movements. We remember, that at a meeting of the Academy, a member stated, that it was important and necessary that the people of this city should know, who are, and who are not physicians; and that this Academy would embrace only those on whom the public could rely. We did not, at that time, perceive the design of this statement; but lately, the intention and real meaning has been developed, which is, to advertise for

business. We could hardly credit what we saw, when, for the first time, we read the advertisement of the New York Academy of Medicine, embracing the name of each member and his address. Without delay we sought for the code of ethics, which had been adopted by the "*National Medical Association*" to ascertain, if a rule had been recognized by that body to permit physicians to advertise for patients. How this is, we do not know, for this *National* establishment forgot to order a copy of their *ethics* sent to us, and we have not been able to procure one. But, something of the sort must have been adopted, or the New York Academy of Medicine would not have dared to assume so great a responsibility: for, up to this moment, honorable members of the profession have held in abhorrence all "*advertising doctors*." In looking over the list of names, as published in the advertisement referred to, we happen to know more or less of nearly every person represented in it; and from this knowledge, we should judge, that the plan of advertising was a question of *necessity* more than any thing else. It may not be known out of our city, but it has been most thoroughly taught in it, that the expenses of a physician are heavy; and patients he must have; and paying ones too; or he must starve. Now, this New York Academy has been able to perceive that those who advertise, do best in money matters. They, no doubt, looked at, and meditated upon, the success of Brandreth, Moffat, Comstock, and Bostwick, all of whom have made fortunes by advertising. And then, they reflected long and deeply upon their own deplorable condition, they saw, that they had contended stoutly for the dignity of the profession, until, by the most convincing experiments, they found starvation coming; and its withering touch had already been experienced by not a few of them. In the midst of this deplorable state, and while the Academy was in session, and nearly the whole of its members present, with despair pictured on each countenance, and profound silence reigning,—at that moment, an aged member arose and said, in substance: That we have lost the confidence of the public cannot be denied, that our practice is daily diminishing each member well knows, and that something must be done to save us from utter starvation will not be disputed. These words had a most powerful effect upon all present, and it was soon agreed that adver-

tising was feasible; and although it might not look well for each member to advertise "on his own hook," yet, the thing could be done with some sort of dignity in an associated capacity; and further, it would be a saving of expense. This mode, in all likelihood, would accomplish two important objects. It would show to the citizens of New York, that those who are known as homœopaths are "*no doctors*;" and, secondly, that the five hundred allopaths in the city, who have had nothing to do with this Academy, would also be looked upon by the people as "*no doctors*;" and then the entire medical and surgical business of this great city would be monopolized by the two hundred members of the Academy.

A most magnificent scheme, truly! But we have a serious objection to it. We fear it resembles too much the theories of the allopathic school; which are beautiful to look upon, but in practice, they are found not only useless, but often pernicious:

THE MISSOURI MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

We have just received the 3d. No. of the 3d Vol. of the above Journal. In a notice of an article on *Doses*, which appeared in the 2d No. Vol. 2d of this Journal, one of the editors remarks:

"So long as Homœopathy uses the one-twentieth grain of strychnine, and the one-fortieth grain of aconite, there is efficacy in such doses; and, by the way, many so-called homœopaths practise on the principle of using only the most potent medicines, and administering the ordinary doses laid down in the Pharmacopœias. But when her advocates rely solely on "*trituration*" and "*agitation*;" that is, one grain of medicine mixed with a barrel of flour, or a bushel of pulverized sugar, and then give the smallest quantity imaginable, of said bulk, it is impossible that any effect should be produced other than through the mind of the patient."

What is said of a "barrel of flour" and of "a bushel of pulverized sugar" is misrepresentation; which, if made in sincerity, shows the author utterly ignorant of the Pharmacopœia of the Homœopathic school of medicine. Our object in noticing the above extract is, to inquire, How the editor knows that in "the one-twentieth grain of strychnine, and the one-fiftieth grain of aconite, there is efficacy"? This knowledge could have been acquired only in one way—by experiment. If,

therefore, the respectable editor of the above named Journal has satisfied himself by experiment that there is efficacy in the doses he mentions of strychnine and aconite, why did he not push his experiments to the 3d, 15th, and 30th attenuations, properly, of the same drugs? We assert positively that there is "efficacy" in the 30th attenuation of aconite and *Nux vomica*. We know the fact, from the almost daily use of these medicines for the last ten years.

We regret to learn that any one professing to be of the new school should employ the ordinary doses of the old school. Our reply is, that if they select the medicine in accordance with the law of cure, their popularity as practitioners of our art will be short lived. Only allow Homœopathy to be practised with Allopathic doses, and it will soon cease to cure. On the contrary, it will kill. Experience and reason teach, that a large dose of an active drug, administered to a sick person, the phenomena of whose case simulates that of the drug, is attended with great danger, and the employment of Allopathic doses upon the Homœopathic principle must be the most pernicious practice that can be adopted. For example, take a case of sanguineous apoplexy. Belladonna might be homœopathically indicated. Would a physician of the old or new school dare administer, repeatedly, drop doses of the expressed juice of this plant? Not one would be so fool-hardy. Why not? Because it is well known that belladonna will produce a condition termed congestion in the brain. The same may be said of opium, which is also sometimes indicated in that disease; and in the 15th or 30th attenuation, the most prompt and favorable results follow its use; but in the ordinary doses would be attended with disastrous consequences.

There is reason and there is philosophy in the use of the "small doses," on the principle of "like is cured by like." Those who doubt, should test its truth by careful and honest experiment, for it is only in this way the matter can be determined.

HOMŒOPATHY IN RHODE ISLAND.

Coventry, R. I., August 14th, 1847.

Messrs. KIRBY & SNOW,

Please to send me the sixth number of the Journal. The seventh has come to hand, but from some cause or other the sixth has

not been received, and I do not wish to break my file. For your encouragement (though you may not need it), I will just say, that Homœopathy is making steady progress in Rhode Island; but for want of scientific and educated practitioners, some who assume the title of doctor and demand a fee, and others who practise gratuitously, which has a tendency to bring the science into disrepute in some instances, yet I think, on the whole, there is more good than evil resulting from this mode of propagating the doctrine. I tell my professional brethren that if they are determined to hold their peace, or only utter their voice in ridicule of what they are ignorant of, "*the stones will cry out.*" This law of cure, as discovered by the immortal Hahnemann, is not to be kept hid from the people by interested and selfish pretenders to the healing art, especially from the people of Rhode Island, who are not to be hoodwinked by exploded systems of theology or medicine. It is amusing to see some of them pretending to practice Homœopathy with small doses of their gross drugs. One thing is very certain, that the new doctrine has modified the practice of the old school doctors very much in this vicinity. They are now boasting of giving but little medicine, to keep themselves in countenance with the public, and, of course, are doing less injury to the health of the people than formerly.

The above was not penned for publication, but you may do as you please with it.

Yours, for humanity,

PELEG CLARKE, M. D.

THE NEW YORK JOURNAL OF MEDICINE, for September, 1847, contains, under the head of "*Critical Analysis*," a notice of a portion of Hahnemann's work on *Chronic Diseases*, which exhibits a deplorable ignorance of well known facts; a wilful perversion of truth; a remarkable weakness in argument; and a confusion in arrangement, beyond any thing of the kind we have yet met with from any writer opposed to Homœopathy.

Such an article, from such a source, was unexpected to us. And, it can never be reconciled to the honor of a professional man; nor the conscience of a Christian. When the writer thought it necessary to slander Hahnemann's mental and moral character, and give erroneous quotations from his writ-

tings, to lay a foundation for what he has said, to us, it seems singular, that it did not occur to him, that the fact of his doing so, is, in itself, a strong argument in favor of Hahnemann and Homœopathy.

Does the reviewer suppose that any one of his readers will believe that Hahnemann was an advertising quack doctor? We think not.

Does he believe "that many of the quotations from old medical authors, made by Hahnemann, are false and fictitious? He believes no such thing. It is too inconsistent with reason, or the plain dictates of common sense, even for him, to doubt the faithfulness of those quotations. The founder of Homœopathy never intentionally propagated a falsehood. He never misquoted an author. And, instead of being "devoted to theories and speculations," he avoided both, to a degree never attained by any other medical writer. We cannot extend our remarks at this time, but we will give the *Editor of the New York Journal of Medicine* the advantage of a quotation of one of his paragraphs, the sense of which is complete in itself, having no necessary connection with what precedes or what follows it. It is in these words:

"A proneness to secrecy and dissimulation were prominent traits in the character of Hahnemann; disguise and concealment entered into all his plans, and influenced all his actions. From the time he advertised his grand panacea, *borax*, to the very last years of his life, when he confessed that his system of practice had been an entire failure, so far as the treatment of chronic diseases were concerned, and that he had kept to himself for nearly thirty years the true theory and mode of curing this class of disorders. During all this long period he had been openly proclaiming the success of his system, *as set forth*, and its superiority over all others, in the management of every class of affections; while, according to his own late confession, he was conscious all the time it was a perfect failure. We do not wish to judge any man uncharitably, but we are directed by high authority to judge a tree by its fruits, and to this test we must bring the founder of Homœopathy. We cannot reconcile, we repeat, with honesty of purpose, or even common humanity, this long and cruel silence regarding the success of his practice, while his deluded followers were trusting to it as their sheet-anchor, to the neglect of known established methods of cure. It is dreadful to contemplate the number of lives which were thus sacrificed to pride of opinion; and obstinacy of will;—lives hardly atoned for by late and reluctant

confessions, at a time when death seemed staring him in the face."

It is not needful for us to say, that the above extract is false in every particular; and the same remark justly applies to the entire review.

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 If in the opinion of the Physicians of the Homœopathic School, this Journal is calculated to promote the spread of the Homœopathic Practice, they would confer a favor on themselves and on us by enlarging its circulation. We thank those Physicians who in this respect have done their duty.

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 Those who desire to subscribe for this Journal may do so by remitting to the Editors, one dollar, by mail, or otherwise.

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J. F. DESILVER, 112 Main St., Cincinnati, Ohio, is the Agent for the West, of the Homœopathic Pharmacy at Leipsic. Physicians and others can always be supplied at this establishment with pure medicines adapted to the homœopathic system of treatment; medicine chests suited to Dr. Herring's Domestic Physician; refined sugar of milk, &c. Also Agent for the American Journal of Homœopathy edited by Drs. Kirby and Snow. New York; a semi-monthly publication at one dollar a year and adapted to lay readers.

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